

Press Release

HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Department of Community Services



PUBLIC SAFETY

"Ensuring a Safe
Harford"

EDUCATION

"Preparing Now,
Building for the Future"

EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

"Governing Smarter"

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

"Growing and Sustaining
Harford's Prosperity"

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

"Protecting Our
Environment"

QUALITY LIVING

"Safeguarding What is
Important to Harford
County Citizens"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 9, 2009

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Department of Community Services Awards Federal Funds to Harford Family House

(Bel Air, MD – March 3, 2009) As part of Harford County Government Administration's focus on serving the most vulnerable members of our community in today's difficult economy, the Department of Community Services has awarded \$75,000.00 award of HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to Harford Family House, Inc. This agency provides sixteen furnished apartments and support programs for families who are working to transition from homelessness to self-sufficiency.

The federal funds will be used for common area improvements to Harford Family Houses' facility in Aberdeen. Constructed over forty years ago, the building is undergoing a much-needed three-year renovation to replace worn features, maximize best use of space and increase energy efficiency.

Harford Family House, Inc. has enjoyed a high success rate in each of the last two years, with at least seventy-five percent of the families who exit the program moving to permanent/stable housing. Most families have one year in the transitional program to work towards self-sufficiency. Those with a diagnosed disability have more time; however, these clients typically exit the program in less than two years.

Harford Family House Executive Director Joyce Duffy commented, "I wish you could see the faces of the parents when we take them to their safe, decent apartment. It offers a second chance for them and their children. No more living in cars, hotels or even boxes. They are so relieved and grateful. We could not do what we do without the support of the community, and especially Harford County Government. They are a valuable partner to Harford Family House in serving homeless families with children, especially during these difficult economic times."

Harford Family House, Inc. is the largest provider of transitional housing for homeless families with children in the county. Their mission is to help homeless families with children become self-sufficient and productive members of society.

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The Harford County Department of Community Services was established in 1979 via Executive Order and works daily to meet the needs of our seniors, youth, persons with disabilities and those struggling to overcome addiction. The Department works with federal, state, local and private agencies to ensure our county continues to evolve and remains dedicated to providing the best possible services for our citizens and community.

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“Preserving Harford’s past; promoting Harford’s future”